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School Committee Minutes 10/27/2011

Approved by the Arlington School Committee November 17, 2011

Arlington School Committee

Thursday, October 27, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Arlington High School

School Committee Room – Sixth Floor

869 Massachusetts Avenue

Arlington, MA 02476

Present: Ms. Cindy Starks, Chair, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Vice Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Mr. Joseph Curro, Jr., Ms. Leba Heigham, and Mr. William Hayner.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA Representative and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

Absent: AAA Representative and Student Representative.

Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 7:38 and returned at 7:44 p.m.

Mr. Pierce exited the meeting at 7:58 and returned at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Spiegel exited the meeting at 8:30 and returned at 8:34 p.m.

Mr. Curro exited the meeting at 8:51 and returned at 8:54 p.m.

Ms. Hanson exited the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Ms. Starks opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and thanked the 7th and 8th graders from the Ottoson Middle School, for the Artwork displayed in the School Committee Room.

Mr. Curro moved to suspend all items up until Superintendent's Report, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie met with Paul Reville, Chair of the MA State Board of Education at the Ottoson Middle School at the invitation of Tom Zierk, 7th grade English teacher and said the visit went very well. Dr. Bodie said all School Councils have appointed someone to be on the Redistricting Committee and said the Redistricting Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 in the School Committee Room.

Mr. Curro moved to remove all tabled items, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Introduction of new AHS Resource Officer

Dr. Bodie and Mary Villano, Brian Gallagher and Ellen Digby introduced Officer Ned Walsh, the new Arlington High School Resource Officer and thanked Officer Brian Gallagher for his years of service here at Arlington High School.

Executive Session

Mr. Curro motioned to table Executive Session to hear Public Participation, but it was decided to enter Executive Session due to Officer Gallagher's time constraints.

Mr. Curro moved to enter into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. for the purpose to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Roll Call: Unanimous

Ms. Heigham moved to exit out of Executive Session at 7:24 p.m., and return to the regular open meeting, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Roll Call: Unanimous

Public Participation

Mr. John Jacey, parent, addressed the issue of the locker rooms, and complimented Principal Villano, Ms. Digby and Officers Walsh and Officers Gallagher for meeting with the parents this evening. Mr. Jacey would like to see a security plan in place and a long term plan as well to fix the problem of the locker rooms.

Ms. Karen Pieroni, former member of the Athletic Advisory Committee and said she would like to continue the work of the committee to reduce fees and keep things on track.

Mr. Jim Pieroni, parent, suggested since participation numbers for the athletes are up, the override went through and the town received additional money, the money could be used toward new locker rooms. He said it was the Superintendent's job to be responsible for the safety of the students and making it a priority to fix the locker rooms over Mr. Dever's recommendation to repair the turf should be considered. Mr. Pieroni wants the committee to reconsider keeping the Athletic Advisory Committee and keep parents on the committee.

Mr. Thomas Davison, Bishop parent, spoke of the large kindergarten class sizes and thanked Dr. Bodie for offering Open Enrollment to parents but is requesting making the part time aid into a full time aid and would like to see how the money is broken down and spent on the half day.

Mr. Stephen Harrington, Arlington resident, spoke on bringing back the Athletic Advisory Committee. Mr. Harrington alleged that the School Committee members had been deliberating via email. He also objected to the proposed involvement of the School Council.

District Governance Support Project

Ms. Nancy Walser and Ms. Chris McGrath spoke on the new innovated partnership between the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education designed to help school leaders (School Committee Members and Superintendent's) understand their roles and responsibilities as well as adopt governance practices, build positive effective relations that support student achievement.

After the committee discussed the pilot program and the positive effect of everyone working together the following motion was made:

Mr. Thielman moved that the Arlington School Committee participate in the District Governance Support Project, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

FY 11 & FY 12 Budgets and Updates

Ms. Johnson presented the FY 11 and FY 12 Budgets and updates. Ms. Johnson said the FY 11 highlights were Special Education expenditures decreased from 11% from FY 10 levels, fee collections outperformed budget estimates overall by \$288,651 and the Reserve Balances have been carried forward to support FY 12, Circuit Breaker \$598,011, Tuition In \$277,143 and Building User Fees \$338,043. The FY 12 Budget Status shows Out of District tuition costs are tracking below budget, reserve funds enable advancement of District Technology Plan, Grant funding has reached FY 11 levels, Circuit Breaker has increased \$502,534 above anticipated budget and it is too early to predict energy costs for the year. Ms. Johnson said FY 11 saw a \$3.9 million decrease and a \$500,000 increase to user fees. She also said the override has allowed the FY 12 Budget to regain FY 10 levels and said FY 13 can be a year to address ongoing concerns. The concerns are population growth and class sizes, high user fees, facilities maintenance, and administrative infrastructure. Other areas Ms. Johnson discussed included MSBA and Stratton Project and Thompson School Rebuild as well as reported out that Powers & Sullivan / MASBO Audit follow-up and said work is continuing on those MASBO recommendations.

The committee members discussed the issue of collection of fees for preschool and kindergarteners as well as the amount of the kindergarten fees. The committee would like to have FY 11 Budget Actuals and the School Committee then discussed ticket sales, Peirce Field rentals, Tuition in, Visa receipts, and Circuit Breaker for FY 11 and wanted to know what Ms. Johnson is projecting for FY 12 in these areas but she said it was too soon to tell.

The committee recommended that Ms. Johnson, Chief Financial Officer should have the FY 12 Budget Line items so the School Committee can vote the bottom line figures, which are outstanding.

Mr. Thielman requested that Ms. Johnson provide the School Committee members a list of special projects and cost of estimate expenditures she has planned for this year with the money in the revolving accounts. The committee is concerned about spending and would like to get a sense of where we are spending down on the reserves. The committee was in agreement that the Chief Financial Officer provides the School Committee members with the FY 12 budget line items by Thursday, November 10, 2011.

Ms. Starks informed the committee that the Finance Committee wanted to work together and meet to discuss and hear the school budget at the start of the school year and suggested meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Office.

Mr. Curro moved to direct the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer to prepare an analysis of both direct and indirect FY 12 costs of running our full-day kindergarten program and to deliver this analysis – along with revised estimates of dedicated kindergarten revenue – to the School Committee by the first meeting in December, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Curro suggested that Ms. Johnson provide a better understanding in terms where lay people can understand how we allocate and how funds are spent in our kindergarten program.

Superintendent's Report Con't

Dr. Bodie asked if anyone on the School Committee would like to be a representative on the Redistricting Committee which will meet one time a month and said they should be completed with a Redistricting Plan by June 2012. Mr. Curro suggested that those interested to serve on this committee, should contact the Chair and then she can put nominees out and be voted on at our next School Committee meeting.

Dr. Bodie said the process to start Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT) is moving forward and all information has been passed to Ms. Bouvier in the Guidance Office. Dr. Bodie announced no school for students on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 due to Professional Development Day for teachers.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures

Mr. Judson Pierce said no meeting was held but will be meeting in the next two weeks.

Budget

Dr. Kirsii Allison-Ampe moved to authorize the Budget Subcommittee to evaluate a shift in the methodology of budgeting and expenditure of Special Education Circuit Breaker funds, and present a report to the full School Committee by the first meeting in December 2011, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Ampe said she is proposing the motion to have money in a reserve due to the timing of the Circuit Breaker announcement from legislation and the timing when we are preparing and discussing our budgets. Dr. Ampe said this would help us with funding and better maximize our services. Dr. Ampe pointed out that the Budget Timeline is not complete at this time.

Athletic Advisory Committee

Mr. Joe Curro Motioned to establish the 2011-2012 Arlington High School Athletics Advisory Committee (Revised -October 26, 2011)

Moved that:

An Arlington High School Athletics Advisory Committee to the School Committee is hereby established for the 2011-2012 school year, as provided by File BDF -ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE (and to the Staff), and subject to the following:

- ***There shall be 13 members, as follows:***

Four AHS student-athlete designees of the Arlington High School Student Advisory Committee following an open application process.

Six parents or guardians of AHS student-athletes to be designated by the School Council of Arlington High School following an open application process.

Two professional staff members of the AHS Athletic Department, to be designated by the Superintendent

One member of the Arlington School Committee

- ***Designating authorities should nominate individuals representing direct experience***

with a diversity of sports at all current four grade levels and equally representing boys and girls athletics.

- ***As per File BDF, all appointments shall be finalized by vote of the School Committee.***
- ***Further per File BDF, all meetings of the Arlington High School Athletics Advisory***

Committee shall comply with the provisions of the open meeting law, and all meetings shall be conducted at Arlington High School.

- ***All appointees to the AHS Athletics Advisory Committee shall be provided with copies of:***

This motion, as voted by the School Committee.

File BDF -ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE (and to the Staff)

Relevant Open Meeting Law advisories for members of public bodies to be obtained from the Town Clerk and/or Town Counsel by the Chair of the School Committee or her designee.

- ***The liaison of the School Committee --to be appointed by the chair of the School***

Committee and confirmed by Committee vote --shall convene the first meeting of the AHS Athletics Advisory Committee, at which time the advisory committee shall elect officers, as provided by File BDF of the policies of the Arlington School Committee.

- *The School Committee liaison shall serve as a member of the AHS Athletics Advisory*

Committee for the purposes of establishing quorum, but shall vote on advisory committee matters only when such vote is necessary to break a tie.

- *Requests for staff resources shall require an advisory committee vote and shall be*

channeled through the School Committee liaison, who shall bring such requests to the attention of the Administration and full School Committee, as necessary and appropriate.

- *The charge of the Arlington High School Athletics Advisory Committee shall be the*

following:

Review and comment on:

- *The following annual reports, prior to their presentation to the School*

Committee and the public:

- *Equal Opportunity (Title IX) Report (Ref: File JJ -COCURRICULAR*

AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES)

- *Booster Club Financial Reports (Ref: File JJ -CO-CURRICULAR*

AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES)

- *Athletic Facilities Report, the review of which shall include recommendations for capital improvements to athletic fields and facilities*
- *Newly adopted procedures for addressing head injuries and concussions*

of student-athletes.

- *Any proposals for athletic fee changes brought forward by the Arlington*

Public Schools Administration or School Committee

Provide assessments of:

- *Student-athlete experience and performance in the first year of Middlesex*

League participation, such assessment to incorporate direct participant feedback in the preparation of such assessment.

- *Athletic offerings, staffing, and professional compensation levels,*

comparing Arlington's measures with those of other Middlesex League and/or comparable communities.

- *Success of athletic scholarship initiatives.*

- *Recommend for School Committee consideration changes and/or additions to*

policies relating to AHS athletics in Section J: Students of the School Committee policy manual.

- *Provide suggestions for:*

- **Cost efficiencies in the athletic program.**
- **Alternative funding mechanisms.**

The Arlington High School Athletics Advisory Committee shall provide the School Committee with a final report by June 15, 2012, Seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Mr. Curro addressed his new motion and said he had sent a revised motion to Superintendent Bodie, Ms. Villano, and Mr. Dever for feedback and agreed with some of the comments heard from Public Participation this evening and included their comments as well as what members said at the last School Committee meeting.

Mr. Pierce moved the 10 o'clock rule to 10:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Hayner proposed to move to table the motion to get counsel's legal opinion as to whether there was an Open Meeting Law Violation, seconded by Mr. Pierce for discussion purposes only.

After the committee members discussed if the motion should be considered for a vote, Mr. Hayner withdrew the seconded of the original motion and Mr. Curro withdrew the original motion.

Thompson Building Committee

Mr. Jeff Thielman said the demolition date for the Thompson School should be in week and the committee will meet again to discuss the budget of the project soon.

Document requests

Ms. Starks had informed the committee at the beginning of the year that all requests for information go through her, the chair of the School Committee. After checking this out with Legal Counsel, Ms. Liz Valerio advised Ms. Starks that any information requested needs to come before the whole School Committee, not just to the chair.

Mr. Hayner moved that the School Committee seek to have the Superintendent provide a list of all personnel she supervises with dates of their last evaluation and dates of their contracts, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved the 10 o'clock rule to 10:30 p.m. seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Hayner moved that the School Committee seek to have the Superintendent provide an updated Summary of Recommendation Financial Processes, Reporting and Management in the Arlington Public Schools, MASBO – October 2010 Report. This should reflect progress that has been made during the year, seconded Mr. Curro.

Voted: 6-1, Ms. Starks voting No.

The committee members would like the Chief Financial Officer just fill out the 35 questions and report the information to the School Committee members.

Consent Agenda

All items listed with an asterisk () are considered to be routine and will be enacted by motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence:*

- *Approval of Warrant # 12049, Dated 10/13/2011, Total Warrant Amount \$ 515,640.27*
- *Approval of School Committee Minutes: September 22, 2011*

Mr. Curro moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Curro moved to reconsider our previous vote approving the minutes of September 8, 2011 seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Curro moved to amend September 8, 2011 for the purposes of changing both instances of the word “confident” on Page 5 to the word “competent.”, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe.

Voted: 7-0

Secretary's Report

Mr. Pierce reported on all correspondence received from (10/13/11-10/26/11)

Email from Ms. Starks that Superintendent Review will occur at first School Committee meeting in November.

Email from Dr. Bodie about theft occurring at the high school.

Email from Dr. Bodie concerning new Resource Officer Ned Walsh.

Email forward from Dr. Bodie with Interim Principal Villano's response to AHS theft.

Email from Ms. Starks with information from MASC on superintendent evaluation.

Email from Dr. Bodie concerning Paul Reville, Chair of the MA State Board of Education, who will be visiting Ottoson on Oct. 26, 2011.

Email from Dr. Bodie with police report concerning AHS theft.

Email from Mr. Hayner requesting a Motion to establish an Athletics Advisory Subcommittee be placed on agenda at the next School Committee meeting.

Email from Mr. Curro with a proposed Motion to establish an Athletics Advisory Subcommittee and request that it be placed on the agenda for the next School Committee meeting.~

Email from Ms. Starks requesting the members supply agenda items for the next School Committee meeting.

Email from Dr. Bodie concerning possible athletic advisory committee mandate, goals, product and membership.

Email from Mr. Curro regarding a request that the School Committee be introduced to incoming Resource Officer Walsh, and to schedule Ms. Cindy Bouvier for an upcoming meeting to present the middle school Youth Risk Behavior Survey results.

Email from Ms. Starks answering Mr. Curro that Mr. Walsh will be at a future School Committee meeting and will ask that Ms. Bouvier attend a future meeting as well.

Email from Ms. Starks concerning information requests and the school committee.

Email from Mr. Hayner requesting time on the agenda for request for the production of documents relative to evaluation of the superintendent.

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald with agenda for October 27, 2011 regular School Committee meeting.

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald with policies approved by the School Committee on October 13, 2011.

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald with agenda and posting for October 20, 2011 budget subcommittee meeting.

Invitation from Principal Rossi to attend Dallin Smart Start program on November 10th.

Email from concerned parent about AHS theft.

Email from Ms. Starks forwarding us the AHS newsletter.

Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Ms. Heigham moved to adjourn at 10:27, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee/jpic